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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Please cancel claims 13 and 24-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~A verification system~~, comprising:

a primary library file, the primary library file having a digital signature, wherein the primary library file is a virtual machine dynamic link library file;

a loader program that checks for a public key from a virtual machine provider to use as ~~obtains~~ a digital signature key and, if the digital signature of the primary library file is verified against the digital signature key, further loads the primary library file, wherein, if the ~~a~~ public key cannot be obtained via the ~~a~~ virtual machine provider, the digital signature key is a hidden public key internal to the loader program and, if the ~~a~~ public key can be obtained via an internet site of the virtual machine provider, the digital signature key is the public key obtained via the virtual machine provider; and

a plurality of secondary files referenced by the primary library file, each of the plurality of secondary files having a digital signature;

wherein the loader program verifies and selectively loads the primary library file by comparing the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of the primary library file, the primary library file subsequently verifying and selectively loading the plurality of secondary files by calling the loader program to compare the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of each of the plurality of secondary files, ~~wherein the computer software installation is a virtual machine installation,~~

at least one tertiary file referenced by at least one secondary file of the plurality of secondary files, wherein after successful verification and selective loading of the at least one

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secondary file, the at least one secondary file manages the verification and selective loading of the at least one tertiary file,

at least one administrator-configurable file and

the digital signature key comprising a number of keys including a private key provided by an administrator,

wherein the loader program verifies the digital signature of the at least one administrator-configurable file using the private key, wherein the at least one administrator-configurable file includes at least one of a security file and a policy file that is updatable by use of the private key, wherein ~~the verification system verifies the~~ authenticity of each element of a virtual machine installation is verified and ~~provides security integrity for the virtual machine it installs.~~

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~A verification method, the method comprising the steps of:~~

launching a loader program arranged to load library files;

checking for an availability of a public key from an internet site of a virtual machine provider;

~~if a public key is available from an internet site of a virtual machine provider if the public~~ key is available from the internet site of the virtual machine provider, using the public key as a digital signature key;

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if ~~a~~ the public key is not available from the internet site of the virtual machine provider,
using a hidden public key stored inside the loader program as the digital signature key;

using the loader program to verify ~~the~~ authenticity of a digital signature incorporated in a
primary library file by comparing said digital signature with the digital signature key, wherein the
primary library file is a virtual machine dynamic link library file;

selectively loading the primary library file in dependence upon the successful verification
of its digital signature;

for each of a plurality of secondary files, using the primary library file ~~and the loader~~
~~program~~ to verify ~~the~~ authenticity of a digital signature ~~digital signatures~~ incorporated in
corresponding one each of the ~~a~~ plurality of secondary files by calling the loader program to
compare the digital signature incorporated in the corresponding one of the plurality of secondary
files by comparing them with the digital signature key; and,

selectively loading the plurality of secondary files in dependence upon the successful
verification of their digital signatures,

including at least one tertiary file referenced by at least one secondary file of the plurality
of secondary files,

~~the method comprising the further steps of:~~

after successful verification and selective loading of the at least one secondary file, using
the at least one secondary file to manage the verification and selective loading of the at least one
tertiary file, at least one administrator-configurable file and the digital signature key comprising a
number of keys including a private key provided by an administrator,

wherein the loader program further verifies ~~and selectively loads~~ the digital signature of
the at least one administrator-configurable file using the private key, wherein the at least one
administrator-configurable file is loaded upon successful verification of any corresponding digital
signatures, wherein the at least one administrator-configurable file includes at least one of a
security file and a policy file that is updatable by use of the private key, wherein ~~the verification~~
~~system verifies the~~ authenticity of each element of a virtual machine installation is verified ~~and~~
~~provides security integrity for the virtual machine it installs.~~

8. (Canceled).

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9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The system for verification and installation of a virtual machine
~~The verification system~~ of claim 1, further characterised by: the virtual machine provider is
accessed through an internet site to provide the public key.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for verification and installation of a virtual machine
~~The verification method~~ of claim 7, further characterised by: the virtual machine provider is
accessed through an internet site to provide the public key.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The system for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~The
verification system~~ of claim 1, wherein the loader program is a third-party application that
initiates the virtual machine installation.

19. (Currently Amended) The system for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~The
verification system~~ of claim 1, wherein the loader program is a virtual machine launcher that
initiates the virtual machine installation.

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20. (Currently Amended) The method for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~The verification method~~ of claim 7, wherein the loader program is a third-party application that initiates the virtual machine installation.

21. (Currently Amended) The method for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~The verification method~~ of claim 7, wherein the loader program is a virtual machine launcher that initiates the virtual machine installation.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for verification and installation of a virtual machine ~~A verification system~~ comprising:

a virtual machine primary library file, the virtual machine primary library file having a digital signature;

a loader program that checks for a public key from a virtual machine provider to use as obtains a digital signature key and, if the digital signature of the primary library file is verified against the digital signature key, further loads the virtual machine dynamic link library file; and

a plurality of secondary files referenced by the virtual machine primary library file, each of the plurality of secondary files having a digital signature;

wherein the loader program verifies and selectively loads the virtual machine primary library file by comparing the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of the virtual machine primary library file, the virtual machine primary library file subsequently verifying and, if the digital signature of the primary library file is verified against the digital signature key, ~~selectively~~ loading the plurality of secondary files by calling the loader program to compare the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of each of the plurality of secondary files, ~~wherein the computer software installation is a virtual machine installation,~~ wherein, , if the -a public key cannot be obtained via the -a virtual machine provider over the internet, the digital signature key is a hidden public key internal to the loader program and, if the -a public key can be obtained via an internet site of the virtual machine provider, the digital signature key is the public key obtained via the virtual machine provider over the internet;

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at least one tertiary file referenced by at least one secondary file of the plurality of secondary files, wherein after successful verification and selective loading of the at least one secondary file, ~~wherein the at least one secondary file manages the verification and selective loading of the at least one tertiary file;~~ at least one administrator-configurable file; and the digital signature key comprising a number of keys including a private key provided by an administrator,

wherein the loader program verifies the digital signature of the at least one administrator-configurable file using the private key, wherein the at least one administrator-configurable file includes at least one of a security file and a policy file that is updatable by use of the private key, wherein ~~the verification system verifies the~~ authenticity of each element of a virtual machine installation is verified and ~~provides security integrity for the virtual machine it installs.~~

23. (Canceled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) The system for verification and installation of a virtual machine of claim 18, wherein the third-party application launches the loader program through a native interface.

28. (New) The method for verification and installation of a virtual machine of claim 20, wherein the third-party application launches the loader program through a native interface.

29. (New) The system for verification and installation of a virtual machine of claim 27, wherein a binary module is linked into the third-party application and performs verification.

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30. (New) The method for verification and installation of a virtual machine of claim 28, further comprising linking a binary module into the third-party application, the binary module performing verification.